

Potting Soil and Mulch Can Be Pesticides!

Potting soil and mulch—pesticides? How can that be? Take a closer look at the bags of potting soil and mulch you have on display. Some of them may actually contain insecticides or herbicides. If they do, they must be stored under a roof in an area that is protected from the elements. If outdoors, they must also be fenced.



The following products all contain the insecticide imidacloprid:

- ▶ Advance Garden 3-in-1 Multi-Purpose Potting Mix Ready-to-Use (RTU)
- ▶ Advanced Garden 3-in-1 Rose & Flower Potting Mix RTU
- ▶ Bayer Advanced Garden All-In-One Potting Mix RTU
- ▶ Bayer Advanced Garden All-In-One Potting Mix Rose & Flower
- ▶ Bayer Advanced Garden Flower Planting Mix RTU
- ▶ Bayer Advanced Garden Multi-Purpose Potting Mix with Moisture Control
- ▶ Bayer Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Planting Mix RTU

The following products all contain the herbicide dithiopyr:

- ▶ Schultz Premium Mulch with Weed Stop
- ▶ Sta-Green Premium Mulch with Weed Stop
- ▶ Vigoro Premium Mulch with Weed Stop

The above lists are not all-inclusive—always check new product labels carefully. If there is an EPA registration number, then that product contains a pesticide.

Sale of Diazinon Products Illegal

As of December 31, 2004, retailers were prohibited from selling diazinon products. *What can you do with your stock of these products?*

1. **Give Away**—Diazinon products may be given away to licensed commercial applicators.
2. **Private Use**—Diazinon products may also be used by store owners or employees on their private property. While the sale is illegal, use of diazinon according to label directions is allowed.
3. **Disposal**—As a last resort, retailers are now responsible for disposing of any diazinon products not sold as a hazardous waste through a licensed disposal company.

Dylox Requires License to Sell

Reminder: Dylox (trichlorfon) continues to be classified as a limited-use pesticide in Maine. In other states Dylox may be considered a general-use pesticide. Here in Maine only retailers licensed as Restricted Use Pesticide Dealers may sell products containing trichlorfon. Because these products are classified as limited-use, they may only be sold to licensed applicators with a special permit. Trichlorfon products registered in Maine include:

- ▶ Bayer Advanced 24-Hour Grub Killer
- ▶ Bayer Advanced 24-Hour Grub Control
- ▶ Dylox 6.2
- ▶ Dylox 6.2 Granular
- ▶ Dylox 80 Turf & Ornamental Insecticide
- ▶ Hi-Yield Dylox 6.2 Granular Insecticide
- ▶ Shaw's Insect Control 620 with Dylox
- ▶ Spectracide Grub Stop 24 Hour Lawn Rescue

Always check grub control products to see if they contain trichlorfon. If they do, send them back to your supplier.

Aquatic Herbicides

Maine has a special rule prohibiting the sale, purchase, and use of aquatic herbicides without a license. This point-of-sale roadblock stops homeowners who might haphazardly dump weed killers into Maine's lakes and ponds.

The Bottom Line: aquatic herbicides may only be sold by **licensed restricted-use pesticide dealers** to **licensed**

applicators. People wishing to buy aquatic herbicides to control weeds in water should be told they need a commercial pesticide applicator license and a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit.

Retailers should familiarize themselves with the list of 93 Maine registered aquatic herbicides that are affected. Be aware that not all aquatic herbicide products have obvious names like Aquacide or AquaMaster herbicide, indicating them as such. Accord Concentrate and Renovate are examples to the contrary. However, all listed products do have an aquatic use printed on the container's label.

If your suppliers accidentally send you one of these products for retail sale, you must send the product back, indicating that your business is not licensed to sell restricted-use pesticides.



For the most up-to-date list of aquatic herbicides, check www.thinkfirstspraylast.org.

Pesticide Display Areas—*The Basics*

- ▶ Pesticides on display, unless they are exempted products (*see inset*), must be located in a separate area that is posted with a Board-approved sign designating it as a sales area and informing the public where to get more information. The sign (*see below*) is available for download at http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/pdf/selfserv_sign.pdf.
- ▶ Pesticides, unless exempted products (*see inset*), cannot be displayed within 10 feet of food or animal feed unless they are stored in adjoining aisles separated by a solid barrier.
- ▶ All outdoor pesticide displays must be securely fenced and have a roof to protect from rain and other weather.
- ▶ All pesticide retailers or wholesalers must be equipped with spill cleanup materials sufficient enough to absorb two times the volume of the largest container on display.

Exempt Products

- ▶ products for indoor use only, with less than 3% active ingredient
- ▶ pet supplies
- ▶ disinfectants
- ▶ repellents
- ▶ moth balls
- ▶ DDVP pest strips
- ▶ aquarium supplies
- ▶ pool supplies
- ▶ aerosols
- ▶ paints
- ▶ stains
- ▶ wood preservatives



Storage & Handling Tips

- ▶ Place a kickboard or a display carton around pallet displays to protect bags and prevent damage from carts.
- ▶ Assign employees to check display areas regularly. Spills of dry pesticides are common at stores and create hazards for both employees and customers. Employees should check for damaged packages and clean up spills quickly

and dispose of them properly. If a pesticide container is damaged and loses its contents, it will need to be treated as hazardous or special waste. For information on proper disposal of pesticide wastes, call the DEP at 1-800-452-1942.

- ▶ It's unlawful to sell pesticides in damaged containers. All pesticide containers must be in good condition with the full label intact and all package directions legible. Displayed containers must not be torn, punctured, rusted, or leaking. Bags of dry pesticides tear easily, so retailers must have procedures for handling them. Small tears can be repaired using clear tape that doesn't conceal any of the product directions.



Leaking pesticide bag in retail sales area of store.

Lawn & Landscape Professionals Need a Pesticide Applicator License

Don't get caught giving misinformation to commercial landscapers and lawn care professionals shopping for weed, insect, and disease controls. For hire yard care professionals and government employees may not apply pesticides without a commercial pesticide applicator license. While these products are available to homeowners who want to apply them to their own property, it's against Maine's law for professionals to apply these products to a customer's property or properties open to the public, like golf courses, parks, and condominiums, without the proper license.



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